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VIII.—1. *Journey to the North of India, Overland from England through Russia, Persia, and Affghanistun.* By Lieutenant A. Conolly. London, 1834. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 834.

2. *Travels into Bokhara, being the Account of a Journey from India to Cabool, Tartary, and Persia.* By Lieutenant A. Burnes, F.R.S. London, 1834. 3 vols. 8vo. pp. 1229.

Two interesting and important narratives of travels across Western Asia have been published within the last year, and are named above in the order of their appearance. They have both excited considerable attention, and been analyzed in almost every contemporary journal; so that under ordinary circumstances we should have thought only a very cursory notice of them here necessary. But as the author of the second has received from the Royal Geographical Society its Royal Premium for the current year, a somewhat more extended review of his labours seems indispensable; and in such an abstract it is impossible entirely to overlook the contemporary, and, though less important, the scarcely less meritorious, exertions of his brother officer.

It is, indeed, highly creditable to the East India Company's Military Service, that in one year two such works should have proceeded from it. There is an essential difference between them, doubtless; but the moral qualities of the travellers are similar, the dangers and difficulties which they overcame were of the same character, and the light which together they have thrown on the geography of North Western Asia is more steady and extended than any previously possessed. Much of what our travellers saw, indeed, was reported to Elphinstone and Fraser; and it is at once curious and interesting to observe how minutely accurate their hearsay accounts prove, in many instances, to have been. But the mere want of confirmation under which these previously laboured detracted from their value. What was not known to be true was as though it had been false. And much as the public is indebted to Messrs. Burnes and Conolly, we know not if a peculiar debt be not due to them by the above gentlemen, for having proved how carefully, how laboriously, and how successfully they had sifted the desultory, and, without doubt, often contradictory statements made to them by their native authorities.

We have said above, that there is an essential difference between the works before us; and we mean by this a difference not in route only. Lieutenant Burnes's book is of a higher, because a more complete character throughout. Lieutenant Conolly appears to have had few or no instruments with him, and his curiosity seems to have been much more actively directed to the moral and political aspect of the countries which he traversed,

than to their topography. There is thus very little physical geography in his two volumes : and his map has been very imperfectly compiled here, without any aid from himself ; it is, in truth, impossible to follow him with only its assistance. Lieutenant Burnes, on the contrary, was well provided with instruments, and studied to make his journey a flying survey. His map, compiled by one of our most laborious geographers\*, from every available source, and largely benefited by his own labours, is without doubt the most perfect now existing of the country which it embraces. And his active, inquisitive temper, and general intelligence, enabled him, while on his journey, to direct his inquiries far and wide on both sides of his immediate route ; so that he has made a large accession to the conjectural as well as precise geography of this part of Asia. We come now to particulars.

I. Lieutenant Conolly left England for India, in August, 1829 ; and having resolved to go overland, passed through Russia, and along the western shores of the Caspian, to Tabreez, whence it was his original purpose to proceed to Bushire, and thence embark for Bombay. Encouraged, however, by the facilities which seemed promised in Persia for effecting a journey across Toorkhistan and Affghanistan, and desirous of adding to the information possessed of these countries, he changed his plan and proceeded from Tabreez to Astrabad, where he arrived in April, 1830. There two roads lay before him—one by way of Khiva, Bokhara, and Caubul : the other through Khorassan, by Herat and Candahar, to the Indus ; and, as being the most curious and difficult, he first decided on the former, prefacing the detail of his attempt to accomplish it with a brief account of the nomadé tribes occupying the desert north and east of the Caspian, among whom he thus adventured. This does not materially alter, or add to, what Mr. Fraser has before given us ; but is interesting as a general corroboration of it.

The Toorkmuns, according to Mr. Conolly, are divided into at least four, and probably more, principal tribes, almost always at war with each other, and with the neighbouring Persian posts. These, in the order of their occurrence, proceeding from Astrabad towards Khiva and the Oxus, are the Yimoots, Goklâns, Tekkahs, and Serruxes. Each has an allotted portion of the desert as its peculiar beat, and moves about within this, and frequently beyond it, as the wants of its cattle, or the predatory habits of its people, may suggest. The first and third are the most powerful ; but each is subdivided into many families, which hold together by a

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\* Mr. John Arrowsmith. The map in question is No. 29 of his *New Atlas*, and should be used also with Mr. Conolly's book. With regard to the *Atlas*, see a further notice of it in this *Journal*, p. 320.

very slender bond of union. Shah Abbas introduced among them a tribe of Koords, whom he removed from the Turkish frontier to this locality, in hopes of protecting Persia by interposing them between it and the Toorkmuns ; but the success of this policy has not been great. These Koords are now not the least powerful or restless of the neighbours of Persia in this direction.

The Goklans, being a small tribe, and often at enmity with the others, are the most submissive to and dependent on Persia. They also live more settled than the others, and possess large herds and flocks. All the tribes, however, are divided into Charwars and Choomoors, that is, Rovers and Settlers ; of whom the relative proportions vary in the several tribes. The distinction is one of employment, not family, a Charwar becoming a Choomoor, and *vice versa*, at will. Both breed horses ; but those of the former, that is, those bred in the desert, are preferred. The former have also many camels, with flocks of sheep and goats, but neither oxen nor poultry. The latter have all, and, besides, cultivate grain. The individual wealth of many is great. Mr. Conolly mentions one who possessed 700 camels, 5000 sheep and goats, 200 mares, and several " necks'-full " of money. The Toorkmuns keep their money and other small valuables in large purses made of the necks of camels' hides.

For the privileges of pasture and cultivation, the Toorkmuns, according to their proximity, acknowledge a dependence on the Shah of Persia or Khan of Khiva ; but they are very independent liegemen, to Persia in particular, and currently join in parties to carry off Persians into slavery. Being Soonnees in their religion, they sell Persians, whom, as Sheahs, they consider entitled to no better treatment, to their brethren in belief of Khiva and Bokhara. And thus an Astrabadee dare not penetrate the desert, even so far as Goorgaun, a considerable river almost on the boundary, without the safeguard of a Toorkmun ; and a Toorkmun, in like manner, will not venture to Astrabad unguaranteed.

Among these wild tribes, then, Mr. Conolly first adventured, desirous of proceeding to Khiva. His companion was a native of Hindoostan, called Syud Karaumut Allee, who had long resided in Persia, and joined him at Tabreez ; and of whose intelligence and presence of mind he uniformly speaks in high terms. They both passed as merchants ; and bargained with a Toorkmun, called Peerwullee, to furnish them with four camels, and transport them and their baggage. Accordingly on the 26th April they set off and forded the Goorgaun, already noticed, which was here about sixty yards wide, and four feet deep. When the rains are down, however, it is a much more considerable stream, and held sacred by the Toorkmuns, who swear by it.

The travellers rode in kajavahs, or cribs, about four feet long by

two wide, in which they stowed their bedding, and sat or lay as they best could. A camel carries two of them, and they are balanced against each other with very little other fastening; so that they are both inconvenient and insecure. The direction of the route was northerly, and after leaving the meadow-land on the immediate banks of the river, the soil was dry and light, having here and there patches of good grass, but only small thorns and weedy bushes besides. On the 27th they crossed the Attruck, a river about as deep as the Goorgaun, but a third less wide, and 27 miles beyond it. Its immediate banks are again a better country, but beyond them the desert aspect returns.

On the 28th they passed the remains of what appeared to have been once a considerable town, but could obtain no information regarding it. Ruins are here usually called the forts of Roostum-e-Zal, Roostum the Son of Zal, the Hercules of Persian history. They also passed several small Yimoot encampments, where they obtained slight refreshments, as camel's *chaal*, or butter-milk, with boiled rice, &c. On the 29th little occurred of importance: but on the 30th, their course being still about N. N. E., they arrived at, and ascended for above two hours to the N. E., what appeared to be the deserted bed of a once very large river. Its breadth was 1000 paces, the bottom gravel and pebbles, the banks high and much worn, and occasionally broken into a succession of deep parallel ravines, each the size of a nullah. The travellers wished to believe this the (supposed) ancient course of the Oxus; and Mr. Conolly argues in favour of the probability that that river did once flow into the Caspian. But he admits that this particular spot is scarcely far enough north to correspond with the traditions on this head; and he is compelled to solve the physical difficulties arising from the known, or at least believed level of the country, and which for the most part incline geographers to doubt the truth of these traditions, by a still more uncertain one of an earthquake, said by Captain Moravieff to have occurred 500 years ago, and to have materially altered the general face of the country.

Beyond this river-course the aspect of the desert became perceptibly worse. It was a barren white plain, on which there was scarcely a blade of verdure; and the view, at even the shortest distance, was distorted by *mirage*. It is said in the East that this phenomenon is caused by the refraction of the sun's rays on a salt soil; and the soil here is strongly impregnated with salt, layers of it being often found on the surface, which, when seen through this *mirage*, have the appearance of white buildings. Bushes have thus also the appearance of a forest; and the figures of men or camels look spectral. A few horses and antelopes were seen in this tract, and the desert rat (an animal slighter than the common rat, with a tuft on the tip of its tail, and which springs with

four feet like a kangaroo) was every where common. The Arabs eat this animal as a dainty : the Toorkmuns are more nice. One cuckoo was seen ; with some beautiful perroquets (the body green, head and wings of a rich brown colour) ; and one flight of birds like the Indian minas. " The scene," Mr. Conolly says, " was desolate, but there was great beauty in it in the stillness of broad twilight."

On the 2nd of May, the party was joined by four horsemen, friends of their guide Peerwullee, and who speedily showed themselves his accomplices in a plot to intimidate, if not rob and murder, the travellers. The next two chapters are accordingly occupied by a personal narrative of considerable interest, but not immediately to the purpose of this Journal. We shall not, therefore, follow it, but merely select points in it which seem deserving of notice.

The frequent occurrence of ruins in this desert has already been adverted to ; and some of these are in good preservation. "*Meshed-e-Misreaun*," says Mr. Conolly of one of them so called, " was plainly visible about four miles to the west ; and as we afterwards marched on, we passed close under the south wall of this ruined city. It was four-square, each face of somewhat more than three-fourths of a mile. We counted twenty-five bastions in the south face ; they were chiefly of burnt brick, and some were double. Being mounted on camels we could see over the broken wall, before which was a nearly filled up ditch. In the centre of the ruined houses were two very high broken minarets, and a stuccoed mosque in good preservation ; on two sides were also remains of high arched gates, such as now front royal residences in Persia. In advance of the south wall was a watch-tower, and fronting the eastern entrance was a large white mosque in excellent repair. Outside the city there had evidently been ruined houses and gardens ; and at some miles distance we passed a broken mosque.

" Of *Meshed-e-Misreaun* we could obtain no satisfactory account ; and from what the Toorkmuns said, it was evident that they knew nothing about it. They ascribe its ruins to an invasion of the Calmuck Tartars, which took place five hundred years ago ; but I can scarcely believe that so long a time has elapsed since it was deserted. There are many other large ruined towns in advance of the present Persian frontier, which probably only fell to decay when the founder of the Karasmian dynasty invaded Khorassan at the death of Shah Ismael Sofi, three hundred years ago. We were told that there were many inscriptions inside of them, and that coins had been found and sold to Persian money-changers."

Considering the social system of the Toorkmuns, and their avowed predatory habits, both property and person were, on the

whole, safer among them than might be expected. Mr. Conolly's treacherous guide, Peerwullee, whose ultimate objects were scarcely concealed, and who frequently sought to fasten a quarrel on them that he might have a pretext for putting them in execution, was yet constantly restrained by the want of this pretext, and ultimately was compelled to release them on fair terms by the force of opinion in his tribe. Their baggage was also searched, and expenses were accumulated on them till their money was nearly all taken; but having come as guests, they were not directly plundered. When they came away, the horses on which they rode were only allowed to go a certain distance on the road; and Mr. Conolly assigns as a reason what shows lax moral principle, but yet a respect for law. When a Toorkmun sells a horse to one of his own people, he is allowed to specify, if he desires it, the places to which it is *not* to be taken; and if the buyer neglects the caution, and the animal is subsequently claimed at any one of these places, the loss is his own. But if the seller does not warn a purchaser against a place, and the horse is there proved a stolen one, he must refund the purchase-money.

The travellers altogether advanced about two hundred and ten miles beyond Astrabad, and had the remainder of the road to Khiva described to them. Their advance was to what is considered eight days' journey; it is twelve more to Khiva; and the country becomes progressively so much drier, that water must be carried. It continues, however, hard; and any sand met with is for the most part gathered into broad ridges, kept down by a little vegetation, near which water is generally found. The soil near the Caspian Sea, and rivers flowing into it, is of much better quality; and might, Mr. Conolly thinks, be easily cultivated. He thinks it probable, moreover, that the Russians, in prosecution of their almost avowed designs on Khiva, may, at some time or other, be induced to make this attempt; but he doubts their power of holding Turcomania permanently, however successful they might be in capturing Khiva, and retaining it for a short time.

The Khan of Khiva's authority is acknowledged by 300,000 souls: of whom about 30,000 are Oosbeks, lords of the soil by right of conquest; 100,000 are Sarts, the inhabitants of the country before the Oosbeks took it; about as many more are Kara-Kalpachs, who are settled near Lake Aral; and the remainder are Toorkmuns, a few Kirghiz, and some Tadjicks, or domesticated people of foreign extraction. Much jealousy exists between the Oosbeks and Toorkmuns; the first being overbearing, and the latter mutinous: but the Khan of Khiva has more real power over all his subjects than the Shah of Persia.

The Tartar women are very plain, and when not quite young, even ugly; yet, though the Toorkmuns carry off many beautiful

Persian women annually for sale at Khiva and Bokhara, they very seldom intermarry with them. This is partly owing to covetousness, and partly to the degradation to which the offspring of such a marriage are condemned : they are called Kouls (literally, slaves), though they live among, and on general terms of equality with, the Eegs, or free-born. Certain important privileges are withheld from them, however ; in particular, they are without the pale of ordinary social protection, and an Eeg of another tribe may kill one of them without entailing on himself a death-feud. They are becoming numerous, however ; the more so as the stain is ineffaceable, and their children all remain in the same rank. By the same means their servitude is also becoming light.

Smoking is reckoned disgraceful among the Toorkmuns ; and the reason assigned is a polemical one :—" It is written in the Huddees," as was explained to Mr. Conolly, " that he who makes himself like those of another tribe, becomes as one of that tribe. Now Sheahs, Hindoos, and Jews all smoke, and we by smoking would assimilate ourselves to them—which God forbid !"

The arms of the Toorkmuns are a sword, light lance, and, where possible, a gun ; the bow and arrow are almost quite gone out. As soldiers they are extraordinarily patient of fatigue (as are also their horses) ; and as brave as most irregular troops, whose tactic it is to fight only at an advantage. They cover their heads with a large sheep-skin cap, and when on horseback generally wear boots with pointed iron-tipped heels ; but their dress otherwise is not uniform, being made up frequently of articles taken in plunder.

On Mr. Conolly's return to Astrabad he joined a caravan of pilgrims proceeding to Meshed, to worship at the shrine of the Imaum Reza, the last of the immediate descendants of Allee, and the object of especial reverence to all devout Sheahs. Thence he accompanied a subsidiary Affghaun force on its return to Herat ; where he was reduced to extreme difficulties by the want of the necessary funds to pursue his journey. With these he was ultimately supplied by a Candahar merchant, one of the Syuds or elders of Pisheen, a race supposed to be lineal descendants of Mahomet, and as such held in high reverence : they are settled in the valley of Pisheen, about three days' journey south of Candahar. This individual had been in India, and was familiar with the names of some of the most distinguished British residents there : he knew them also for benefits conferred on him :—" Mr. Elphinstone had given his brother's son a handful of money for answering a few questions ; Mr. Cole of Mysore had bought a horse of him ; Hunter Sahib had given him a rifle ; we were a most excellent tribe, who never gave our words falsely ; and, please God, he would take my debts on his head, and convey me safely



to Hindoostan." It was, no doubt, very gratifying to Mr. Conolly to be relieved from his difficulties ; but the manner in which it was effected must have been even more gratifying still.

Under the guidance, then, of the good Syud Muheen Shah, the remainder of the journey was effected through Candahar, Quetta, Dauder, and Baugh, to Shikarpoor, and across the Indus at Bukkur. The utmost caution was necessary throughout, the wild Belooches habitually infesting the passes of the mountains traversed ; and even worse enemies being often to be found in the lawless governors of the forts maintained to keep them and other marauders in check. But the holy character and the consummate address of the Syud surmounted all difficulties ; and the disposition seems certainly strong in the Affghaun authorities, however hostile may be the intolerant impulses of their followers, to court the English power.

We shall now, however, return on our traveller's steps, and glean the principal facts to which he has called our attention. The routes between Astrabad and Meshed seem very various : three English travellers have recently traversed this ground—Mr. Fraser, Lieutenant Conolly, and, as we shall see in the sequel, Lieutenant Burnes ; and each by a different road. This appears to proceed from the lawless state of the country, which makes it expedient for travellers to throw as much uncertainty over their movements as possible ; and is facilitated by the contracted width and comparatively low elevation of the Elboorz, or Para-pomisan, chain at this point. Its course is nearly E. by S. ; and although transverse valleys of a somewhat higher elevation, and more fertile character, intersect it on both sides, yet, as a general statement, it may be said, that the great Toorkmun Desert, on the one hand, and the salt desert of Yezd on the other, extend respectively to its base. Beyond Meshed it widens, and also rises to a higher elevation. Its southern face turns to the S. E., its northern proceeds on nearly as before ; and it thus gradually blends with the mass of Hindoo Koosh, of which it is a prolongation.

The influence of this configuration of country on the moral and social condition of its inhabitants is very striking ; and though not expressly pointed out, may be distinctly traced both in the pages of Fraser and Lieutenant Conolly. The immense contiguous deserts can only be occupied, at least in the absence of civilization, by wandering and predatory tribes ; and even the hill-country is eminently adapted for the occupancy of unquiet spirits. Every mountain-top is a fastness, every pass a defile, every prolonged valley an opening for a sudden incursion ; their conquests are rapid, but seldom complete—success is alternate, blood-feuds are perpetuated. Unless when the iron hand of a Nadir, or an Aga Mahomed Khan, presses on all alike, the whole is in con-

fusion; and we are almost reconciled to the sanguinary despotisms which, in a peculiar manner, stain the Persian annals, by observing that the sufferings of the people are yet more severe in the intervals between them.

The holy city of Meshed has been so well described by Mr. Fraser, that both Mr. Conolly and Mr. Burnes decline to add to the details given by him. Herat is a well-fortified town, three-quarters of a mile square. It contains about 45,000 inhabitants, most of whom are Sheahs—perhaps 1000 of the remainder are Hindoos; and there are forty families of Jews. It is, beyond all conception, filthy and dirty; from the main streets smaller ones branching off, which are covered over, and form low dark tunnels, containing every offensive thing. The suburbs and adjoining country, however, are singularly beautiful. The city is built four miles from hills on the one side, and twelve miles on the other; and this whole expanse is one beautiful extent of small fortified villages, gardens, vineyards, and corn-fields; brightened by many small streams of shining water, which cut the plains in all directions. A bund, or dyke, is thrown across the river Herirood, and its waters, turned into many canals, are so conducted over the whole vale of Herat, that every part is watered. The most delicious fruits are thus grown: and the climate is also salubrious, though cholera and small-pox, from time to time, make great ravages; and the general habits of the people are so extraordinarily filthy, that any contagious disease must spread rapidly among them.

Herat is at present the capital of the yet remaining Affghaun empire of Shah Kamraun, the nephew of Shah Shooja, to whom Mr. Elphinstone's embassy was addressed; but the principal part of his dominions are occupied by the rebellious brothers of his celebrated vizier Futteh Khan, whom, in his jealousy, he first blinded, and afterwards caused to be assassinated in his presence. The lower classes of his subjects still reverence in him the representative of their ancient monarchs; and while Mr. Conolly passed through the country he was witness to the cordiality with which they received a report that he was about to take the field against his enemies. But his character is weak and avaricious; he is besides sunk in excess: and Mr. Conolly thinks it more probable that Herat will be speedily occupied by the Persians, and the Affghauns be driven farther east, than that their empire will revive, at least in the legitimate line.

There are three roads from Herat to Candahar, of which our traveller was taken by the most difficult, being the most hilly, and probably also the most secure. That taken many years ago by Mr. Foster is still the usual kafilah road; and the third is said to be similar to it. Along Mr. Conolly's route the population is

extremely thin, and the adjoining country was chiefly pastured, some favoured spots, however, being reserved for cultivation, chiefly in the neighbourhood of small towns, as Furrah, Subzaur, Ghore, and others, which have probably grown up from this circumstance. Candahar is itself a considerable city, containing, as Mr. Conolly was led to believe, a population of about 60,000 souls; but he was unable himself to visit it, being extremely ill, and lodged at a place called Ghoondée Munsoor Khan, about sixteen miles north, where his friend and guide had an establishment. Candahar is one of the considerable places of the empire possessed by Futteh Khan's brothers, who rule it oppressively, and are much disliked; describing it, the Syud's words to Mr. Conolly were, "You know what Herat is! Well then, imagine, if you can, a town and people some degrees more filthy. Toof! I spit upon the beards of such beasts; I shall never be clean again."

Candahar is, however, the centre of a great trade, and though oppressed, the district in which it is situated must raise a great quantity of grain, as this is cheap in its market. The climate is not so favourable as that of Herat, but the soil is naturally better; and the supply of water being more copious, the labour of irrigation is in great measure spared.

The next place where our traveller halted for some days, and was most hospitably entertained, was the valley of Pisheen, or Pishing, the house of his guide Syud Muheen. This is about thirty miles broad, and twice as long; and is protected from injury in a turbulent neighbourhood, by the sanctity and peaceable profession of its inhabitants. Of the manners of these, their grades of society, genealogies, superstitions, amusements, and the like, Mr. Conolly gives a detailed account, conceived in a tone of interest which well becomes one so much obliged to them.

Quetta was his next considerable halt. It is the capital of the Belooche province of Shaul, and is a town of 400 small flat-roofed houses of one story, surrounded by a mud wall, in which there are four gates. In the centre is a citadel built on a high mound. The residents are Affghauns, Belooches, and Hindoos, the last of whom are all engaged in trade, which is considerable. Besides that which passes through, Quetta is a rendezvous where Indian and Affghaun merchants, not disposed to undertake the whole journey, meet and exchange their commodities. Horse dealers also resort here in considerable numbers, whence they either send their horses through Beloochistaun and Sinde to the sea-coast, where they are embarked for Bombay, or forward them direct to the Punjab, by the route which Mr. Conolly pursued. The Syud Muheen's chief venture, when escorting him, was horses.

Beyond Quetta the greatest physical difficulties occurred which

were met on the whole road. Hitherto the line of route had chiefly skirted the hills, ascending and descending small secondary elevations; but now the Kirklekkee hills were to be directly crossed, the first of a close and high series which divide Khorassan from the Upper Sind. Several passes are in use across them, of which Mr. Conolly describes two—Bolaun, by which he passed, and another, of which he heard. Both are extremely difficult. Regarding Bolaun, his words are, "The minutest description could hardly convey a just idea of its strength; it is a defile which a regiment of brave men could defend against an army;" and regarding the other, "This road is so difficult, that it is only taken when danger is apprehended in the other defile. Horses all lose their shoes when they come this way."

Dauder is the next considerable town. "Viewed from hence," Mr. Conolly says, "the mountains which we had left presented the appearance of one very high range, coming up north from the sea, and crossing the Tukhatoo chain at right angles, so as distinctly to separate the mountains from the plain country." Dauder is about the size of Quetta, and one-third inhabited by Hindoos; the others are Yuts and Belooches. The plain on which it is situate is white and arid, and cracked like the dry bed of a marsh. Thirty-six miles farther is Baugh, a town of 2000 houses, also containing many Hindoos. The adjoining fields to it are watered by irrigation from the Narree, a river which, coming from the Tukhatoo, or Larree Mountains, runs south, and finally joins the Indus; and beyond this the road lay through the plain to Shikarpoor, marked from stage to stage with large villages, but not requiring particular notice.

Mr. Conolly adds to his book two appendices, one containing an epitome of modern Affghaun history, the other a discussion on the danger to be apprehended from the Russians advancing on India from the north-west. From what he states, this seems very slight; or, if it exist at all, it is at least distant: but as the subject is not purely geographical, we forbear to enter on it. We have been much gratified by learning, since the preceding was written, that Syud Muheen did not, at the close of the journey, go without the reward due to his generous conduct in the course of it. Besides many handsome presents, the Governor-General, Lord William Bentinck, offered him the loan, without interest, of fifty thousand rupees (5000*l.*), for three years, on condition that at the end of this time he should submit his accounts to examination, and thereby show the nature and value of the internal trade of his country: and, to a lesser extent, viz., twenty thousand rupees, this interesting experiment is now going on. Syud Muheen declined to be responsible for a larger sum.

II. Lieutenant Burnes's route was more extended than the above. He first ascended the Indus to Lahore, charged with presents from his Majesty to Runjeet Singh. He thence visited the Governor-General at Simlah; returned to Lahore; proceeded through Attock, Peshawur, Caubul, Balkh, Bokhara, and Meshed to Astrabad; visited the Persian court at Tabreez; and returned by way of Bushire and the Persian Gulf. As his memoir on the Indus has been already published in this Journal, we shall not go over that ground again; but, taking him up at Lahore, follow him step by step through his subsequent journey.

The mission to the court of Lahore having increased Lieutenant Burnes's desire to extend his travels, he proposed passing through Central Asia towards the Caspian Sea as an officer of the British army returning to Europe, a mode he considered more prudent than travelling as an accredited government agent. Having received from Lord William Bentinck, the Governor-General, the most liberal encouragement, and prevailed on Mr. James Gerard, surgeon of the Bengal army, to accompany him, he left Delhi on the 23d of December, 1831, and proceeded by express to Lodiana, a frontier station of British India.

Previous to entering on his journey, it was deemed necessary to receive permission of Runjeet Sing, the ruler of the Punjab, for which purpose a visit to Lahore was again to be made. Leaving Lodiana, he descended the Sutlege to its confluence with the Beas or Hyphasis, and after a journey of fifty miles encamped at Hurree, on the banks of the latter river below its junction with the Beas. These united rivers form a beautiful stream, never fordable, 275 yards wide at this season, but with an actual channel of one mile and a half in breadth; its velocity was two miles and a quarter an hour, perfectly clear, twelve feet in depth, and of the temperature of 57°. About this spot our travellers searched for the Altars of Alexander; which, according to Major Rennell, should lie between the Beas and the Sutlege, but without success. At Hurree, they were met by an escort from Runjeet to conduct them safely to Lahore, the roads not being altogether safe in consequence of the Seik fanatics; and on the 12th of January commenced their journey across the Manja, as the country between the Beas and Ravee is called. It is the highest portion of the Punjab, east of the Hydaspes; the soil is a hard indurated clay, producing thorny shrubs and brambles. The Mogul emperors had fertilized this tract by intersecting it with canals, traces of which may still be seen.

The first town they entered was Puttee, built in the reign of Akbar, and containing about 5000 persons; one of the royal studs was kept here containing about sixty brood mares, fed exclusively on barley and a kind of creeping grass. At the next town, called

Pidana, one of the principal sirdars or chiefs had been sent from Lahore to entertain them at his family mansion, a baronial castle, surrounded by a village peopled by his retainers. These buildings, though always in the military style, of a quadrangular shape, with lofty walls and turrets, are inferior to the fortified dwellings of the Rajpoot chiefs of the Marwar. In their progress to Lahore they entered on the great road of Juhangeer, a broad and beaten way once shaded with trees, and studded with minarets and caravan-serais, many of which still remain to mark the munificence of the Mogul emperors.

On the 17th of January they reached Lahore, and were waited on by a deputation from the Maharaja, expressing the greatest friendship, and leaving a purse of 1100 rupees, a present which it was impossible to decline without giving offence. At Hurree and Pidana, the chiefs had presented them with bows and a purse of money, but in both instances the latter had been refused. On the following morning our travellers visited Runjeet Sing in an audience tent pitched in a garden about two miles out of the town, and surrounded by troops. His reception of them was marked with the greatest affability, and he requested them to continue as long as possible at his court, promising to show them some tiger-hunting, and to give them an entertainment at his palace. The country is said to be subject to earthquakes, and our travellers experienced a slight shock during their stay; yet the lofty minarets of Lahore afford a convincing proof that there can have been no very violent commotion of nature since they were built, about two centuries ago. This shock was felt, as they afterwards learnt, along the whole upper course of the Oxus at the same time, where villages were overthrown and some thousands buried in their ruins. The range of temperature is very great here, since the thermometer, which they were told had stood at 102° in July, now fell to 28°.

About a week after their arrival, they were invited to the Maharaja's camp, which was about twenty miles from the town, on the banks of the Ravee. The scene is described as magnificent—Runjeet's pavilion was of red cloth, while his troops and chiefs were cantoned in picturesque groups around. On the morning of the 27th, the whole camp was in motion; his highness was on an elephant bearing a *houda* of gold; his horses were led before him, and a small body of cavalry with a field-piece formed his escort. In the evening the tents were again pitched, and next morning saw them all prepared for hunting wild boars, with little probability of escape for the poor animals from a company of infantry, two or three hundred horsemen, foresters with rude halberds, a party of Seiks, and a pack of dogs of motley breed. The scene was lively and exciting; in half an hour eight monsters had bitten

the dust, and many more were entrapped in snares ; and in the course of an hour and a half the party returned to their tents, where the successful sportsmen were rewarded. At the end of the month they returned to Lahore, where a hundred cannon announced the arrival of Runjeet Sing.

On the 6th of February the festival of the busunt (spring) was celebrated with great splendour. All the troops were drawn out uniformly dressed in yellow, which is the gala costume of this carnival ; the Maharaja passed down the line, at the end of which were the royal tents lined with yellow, among which was a canopy of pearls and precious stones valued at a lac of rupees. At one end Runjeet took his seat, heard for about ten minutes the sacred volume of the Seiks, after which flowers and fruits were placed before him, and the nobles and other high personages, all dressed in yellow, were admitted to make their offerings in money.

The departure of our travellers from Lahore was delayed by an entertainment given by his highness, the description of which is worthy perusal. Having experienced the most condescending proofs of friendship from the Maharaja, and great kindness from Messrs. Allard and Court, two French officers in his service, they finally quitted Lahore on the forenoon of the 11th of February, and alighted that night at the ruins of the once splendid mausoleum of Juhangeer, across the Ravee, putting up in one of the garden houses that surround it. The tomb itself had lately been converted into a barrack for a brigade of infantry. Their first care was to divest themselves of every article of European costume and comfort, and to adopt not only the dress of the Afghans, but, what was rather more difficult, their habits and manners. The close dress, tents, beds, boxes, tables, and chairs, were all discarded for the flowing robe, a coarse carpet, and a blanket ; and their now diminished wardrobe, with the necessary books and instruments, found place in the saddle-bags which were thrown across the horse's quarters.

Half way across to the Chenab, they halted at a garden well stored with flowers and fruit-trees ; of the latter there were about twenty-eight different sorts, both European and Asiatic. When within about twenty miles of the river, the Himalaya mountains burst upon their view, overtopped with snow ; they subtended an angle of fifty-one minutes elevation, and Lieutenant Burnes estimated their distance at 160 miles, and their height at least 16,000 feet. They reached the Chenab, or Acesines, at Ramnuggur, formerly called Russool, before the Mohammedan supremacy was overthrown. The country between the Ravee and Chenab is a little better cultivated and more fertile than that previously passed, the soil is sandy, and the wells in its centre are but twenty-five feet deep, with an average temperature of 70° Fahr. The climate at

this season is cold and bleak, frequently rainy, always cloudy, with the wind generally blowing from the north. The sugar-cane thrives; its juice is expressed by two horizontal wooden rollers, acted on by two lesser vertical ones, which are set in motion by a wheel turned by a pair of oxen; they produce a coarse sugar called "goor." Education is at a miserably low ebb, the prevailing opinion in the higher as well as the lower classes being that it is useless to a cultivator of the soil. They crossed the Chenab by a ferry; its breadth is 300 yards wide, with a depth of nine feet; its banks are low and speedily inundated in the rainy season, when it probably is, as Arrian describes it, a rapid stream: its velocity, however, did not now exceed one mile and a half an hour; and it is passable by a ford. The temperature was 53°; lower than the Sutlege, the Beas, or the Ravee. They halted at a mud mosque on the right bank of the river. The people are much afflicted with a disease called "noozlu," which is described as a running at the nose, wasting the brain and stamina of the body, and ending fatally; there is also much eye disease in the Punjab.

A journey of forty-five miles brought them to the Jelum, the Hydaspes of the Greeks, which winds its way through an alluvial plain at the base of a low rocky range of hills. On this they embarked, and sailed down the stream about five miles. The river abounds in crocodiles more than any other of the Punjab streams; it is a smaller stream than the Chenab, though at this season their breadth was similar; it is muddy, and rapid, as described by Arrian, the velocity being from three to four miles an hour. On disembarkation they crossed a rich and verdant plain to the town of Pind Dadun Khan, about 100 miles N.W. of Lahore, where they halted. The people are still the same as in the time of Alexander, "strong built, large limbed, and taller in stature than all the rest of the Asiatics." Pind Dadun Khan is the capital of a small district, and has a population of 6000 souls; it consists of three small towns close together, about four miles from the banks of the river. The houses are made of a framework of cedar, which is floated down from the Himalaya; a tree seen on the banks was thirteen feet in diameter.

The salt-range springs from the roots of the White Mountains crosses the Indus at Karabagh (described by Elphinstone), and terminates on the right bank of the Hydaspes, about five miles from Pind Dadun Khan. It forms the southern boundary of a table-land between those two rivers, which rises about 800 feet above the plains of the Punjab. The hills attain an actual height of 1200 feet from the valley of the Jelum, giving an elevation of 2000 feet above the sea; they exceed five miles in breadth. The formation is sandstone, occurring in vertical strata: vegetation is



scanty, and bold and bare precipices rise at once from the plain. Hot springs are found in various places; alum, antimony and sulphur also occur; but a red clay, chiefly seen in the valleys, is a sure indication of a salt deposit. The mine which Lieutenant Burnes examined was situated near the outside of the range, in a valley cut by a rivulet; it opened into the hill at about 200 feet from the base, by a narrow gallery of 350 yards in length, 50 of which may be taken as actual descent; this conducted into an irregular-shaped cavern, about 100 feet high, with walls formed of the bright and beautiful crystals of the red salt, which is deposited in regular vertical strata, none exceeding a foot and a half in thickness, and each distinctly separated from the other by a deposit of argillaceous earth, about an eighth of an inch thick. Some of the salt occurs in hexagonal crystals; the whole is tinged with red from the lightest to the deepest shade, but when pounded it is white. The caverns retain a more equal temperature than the external air; at this season they were at 64°, higher by 20° than the atmosphere; but in the hot weather they were described as being much cooler. Above a hundred persons, men, women, and children, were at work in the mine; their complexion was cadaverous, and appearance miserable, though they do not appear to be subject to any particular disease.

This salt is in high reputation in India on account of its medical virtues; but it is not pure, and, from a mixture of some substance (probably magnesia), is unfit for curing meat. About 800,000 maunds of Lahore (one of which is equal to 100 lbs. English) is annually extracted, but it is closely monopolized by the Punjab government.

Our travellers marched up the right bank of the Jelum to Jelalpoor, for about thirty miles, through a tract of rich land. The salt-range runs parallel with the river; many villages are perched on the outer hills, remarkable alike for their romantic situation and comfort. Jelalpoor has been, by some, considered the scene of Alexander's battle with Porus; but Lieutenant Burnes is rather inclined to identify that with the village of Jelum, higher up the river. The high roads from the Indus pass the Hydaspes at both places; but the latter is the great road from Tartary. At Jelum the river is divided into five or six channels, fordable at all times except during the monsoon. About fifteen miles below Jelum, and a thousand yards from the banks of the river, near the modern village of Darapoor, are some extensive ruins, called Oodeenuggur, three or four miles in extent; and on the opposite shore is a mound where the village of Moong now stands; our author believes the former to indicate the site of Nicæ, the latter of Bucephalia. Two Sanscrit coins were procured at Moong, and some copper ones, with Arabic inscriptions,

at Oodeenuggur. Lieutenant Burnes notices the singular coincidence between the numerical war-forces of Porus and Runjeet Sing, whom he styles the modern Porus, substituting, however, 300 guns for as many war-chariots. They now quitted the banks of the Jelum, and entered the country of Potewar, inhabited by a race of people called Gukers, famed for their beauty, and claiming a Rajpoot origin. Their approach to the Moham-medan countries became daily evident, from the women being veiled, and a change occurring in the costume; sixty yards of cloth were sometimes seen used in a pair of trowsers.

On the 1st of March they reached the celebrated fort of Rotas, considered one of the great bulwarks between Tartary and India; on the construction of which twelve years' labour and some millions of rupees were wasted. From Rotas, their road lay through a mountainous and rugged country of great strength. Water is abundant in the ravines, and is found also in wells thirty-five feet deep. To the right was seen the spot at which the Hydaspes issues from the mountain; it is called Damgully. There is no route into the valley of Cashmere by this river; and the most frequented one lies by Meerpoor and Poouch, about twelve miles to the eastward. On the 6th, the party reached the village of Manikyala, where there is a singular "tope," or mound of masonry, which has been described by Mr. Elphinstone; it has lately been opened, and some coins and other articles found: this mound may be distinguished at the distance of sixteen miles. Manikyala stands on a plain, and Lieutenant Burnes does not hesitate to fix upon it as the site of Taxilla. At this village they were made sensible that they were leaving Hindostan and its customs behind them, by finding a bakery common to the whole village. On the following day they arrived at an agreeable town called Rawil Pindee, distant twelve miles from the mountains, which were covered with snow. On the road they met a numerous body of Afghans, and also Hindoo pilgrims crowding from beyond the Indus to the great religious fair of Hurdwar.

About fifteen miles from Rawil Pindee, they passed the defile of Margulla, and descried the mountains beyond the Indus. This pass is narrow, over low hills, and paved with blocks of stone for 150 yards: the defiles continue for about a mile, when a bridge, over a rivulet, conducts to the next caravanserai; and at about twenty miles from Rawil Pindee, the party stopped at Osman, situated on a plain, at the mouth of the valley up which stands the fort of Khanpoor. About a mile beyond Osman, near the ruined village of Belur, is a "tope" or mound, similar to that of Manikyala, but not of such magnitude. These "topes" Lieutenant Burnes believes to be the tombs of a race of princes who once reigned in Upper India, either the Bactrian kings or their

Indo-Scythic successors. Seven miles beyond Osman, down the valley, is the garden of Hoosn Abdall, lying between two bare and lofty hills; passing which, the view opens upon the valley of Drumtour, that leads to Cashmere; and the range of hills at Puklee, covered with snow, was traced in chain with more lofty mountains beyond it. The fertile plain of Chuch and Huzara also lay before them.

Our travellers came in sight of the Indus at a distance of fifteen miles, whence it could be traced from its exit through the lower hills to the fort of Attok. They encamped at Huzroo, a mart between Peshawur and Lahore. The people were now quite changed; they were Afghans, and spoke Pooshtoo. On their march to the river, they passed over a spacious plain, well cultivated, and covered with rounded stones—an unerring proof of the agency of water. The spot at which they forded the Indus was about five miles above Attok, where the stream was divided into three branches, in the two first of which it gushed with amazing violence; and having, with great difficulty and risk, accomplished this undertaking, they proceeded to Attok, which stands on a black, slaty ridge, at the verge of the Indus. It is a place of no strength, and has a population of about 2000 souls. The garrison being in a state of mutiny, they were detained outside the town for two days, when they were ferried across the grand boundary of India on the 17th of March. The current exceeded six miles an hour; the water was azure blue; and about 200 yards above Attok, before the Indus is joined by the Cabool stream, it gushes over a rapid with amazing fury: a boat cannot live in this tempestuous torrent; but after the Cabool river has joined it, the Indus passes on in a tranquil stream, about 260 yards wide, and 35 fathoms deep, under the walls of Attok. At the confluence, an *ignis fatuus* is visible every evening. They found the fishermen on the Indus and Cabool river washing the sand for gold: some of the smaller streams, however, such as the Swan and Hurroo, yield more gold than the Indus.

The troops of Runjeet Sing escorted the party to their frontier, which is three miles beyond the Indus, where they met the Afghans, and advanced with them to Acora. Hence they traversed a beautiful plain, covered with thyme and violets, to the city of Peshawur, where they were received with the greatest kindness and attention by the chief Sooltan Mohammed Khan. Lieutenant Burnes considers the town of Peshawur so well described by Mr. Elphinstone, and all the ground over which he went, as to require no further addition on his part; his details, in this part of Afghanistan, are, therefore, confined more to incidents of a personal nature. The citadel of Bala Hissar, where the mission of

1809 had been so gorgeously received, was now a heap of ruins, having been burnt by the Seiks in one of their expeditions to this country. About five miles from the town, on the Cabool road, are the ruins of a "tope," similar to those of Manikyala and Belur; and it is said that there are eight or ten more of these towers towards the country of the Kaffirs.

The month which elapsed after their arrival at Peshawur so far increased the temperature, that they had no longer to fear the snows of Cabool and Hindoo Koosh; the thermometer had risen from 60° at mid-day, to 87°; and, after much procrastination on the part of the chief, the 19th of April was fixed for their departure. On that day they took leave of their kind friends, the chief placing them under the protection of one of his own officers, and not only giving them letters to several persons specifically, but also six blank sheets, bearing his seal, which our travellers were to fill up to any person who, they thought, could serve them. There are five different roads to Cabool, but they chose that which leads by the river, the pass of Khyber being unsafe, from the lawless habits of the people; and crossed the beautiful plain of Peshawur to Muchnee. Above this place they passed the Cabool river on a raft of inflated skins; the river is only 250 yards wide, but runs with amazing rapidity. Muchnee is a straggling village at the gorge of the valley, where the Cabool river enters the plain; and below that place it divides into three branches, in its course towards the Indus. Rafts are generally used on this river, though there are a few boats, in which the Mohammedan pilgrims embark, and pass down to the sea; but merchandise is never sent by this route. On the 23rd, they commenced their journey, and, after a fatiguing march over mountain-passes, found themselves again on the Cabool river, which was to be crossed a second time. Its breadth did not exceed 120 yards, but it rushed on with great rapidity, and the precipices on its bank rose to the height of about 2000 feet. The passage was made on rafts of inflated skins, and was tedious and difficult, on account of the eddies. On the following morning they reached Duka by a rocky road, and pushed on in the afternoon to Huzarnow, a journey of upwards of twenty miles. The view from the top of a mountain-pass, before descending into the valley of the Cabool river, was very magnificent. They could see the town of Julalabad, forty miles distant, and the river winding its way through the plain, and dividing it into innumerable islands. The Sufued Koh, or white mountain, reared its crest on one side, and, on the other, the towering hill of Noorgill, or Kooner, covered with perpetual snow, on which the Afghans believe the ark of Noah to have rested after the deluge. Not far from this place

is an isolated rock, called N ogee, in Bajour, which Lieutenant Burnes considers to answer the description of Arrian's celebrated rock of Aornus.

The route from Huzarnow to Julalabad—which city they reached on the morning of the 26th—lay through a wide, stony waste, a part of which is known by the name of Buttecote, and famed for a pestilential wind, or simoom, which is generally fatal. In a hill north of the Cabool river and the village of Bussoul are some extensive excavations in the rock, hewn out in groups, each having a separate entrance about the size of a common doorway; they are ascribed to the days of the Kaffirs, or infidels. Near Julalabad are seven round towers, differing, however, from the "topes" before mentioned. They are said to be ancient, and large copper coins are found near them. Between Julalabad and the mountains, the natives point out the tomb of Lamech, the father of Noah.

Julalabad is a small town, exceedingly filthy, with a bazaar of fifty shops, and a population of about 2000 people; but in the cold season the people flock to it from the surrounding villages. The Cabool river passes about a quarter of a mile north of it, and is 150 yards wide, but not fordable. There are mountains of snow to the north and south, running parallel with each other; the southern is called Sufued Koh, but more frequently Rajgul. It decreases in size as it runs eastward, and loses its snow before reaching Duka; in the higher parts the snow never melts, giving an elevation of about 15,000 feet. To the north-west, the lofty peaks of the Hindoo Koosh begin to show themselves. The travellers now left the river of Cabool, and passed up a valley to Balabagh; here grow famous pomegranates without seed, which are exported to India. At Gundamuk, the next place, they reached the boundary of the hot and cold countries, and, though only twenty-five miles from Julalabad, wheat, which was there being cut, was here only three inches above the ground. The mountains ten miles distant were covered with forests of pine, which commenced about 1000 feet below the limit of snow. At three miles from Gundamuk, they passed the garden of Neemla, and continued their march to Jugduluk, and passed the Soorkh road, or red river, where a variety of small streams pour the melted snow of the Sufueh Koh into that rivulet: their waters are all reddish; hence the name. The country is barren and miserable, and Jugduluk is a wretched place, with a few caves for a village. Our travellers could distinguish that a road had once been made, also the remains of the post-houses which had been constructed every five or six miles, by the Mogul emperors; these may even be traced across the mountains to Balkh. After passing the Soorkh road, they reached Ispahan, a small village, and,

by midnight of the 30th, arrived at the pass of Luta-bund, from the top of which the city of Cabool first becomes visible, distant twenty-five miles. The pass is about six miles long, and the road runs over loose round stones. Rising early, they prosecuted their journey to Cabool, which they reached in the afternoon, the approach to it being any thing but imposing. On their road, they passed the village of Boothak, where Mahmood of Ghizni is said to have interred the rich Hindoo idol from the famous Somnat.

Cabool is a noisy and bustling city; the great bazaar, or "Chouchut," is an elegant arcade nearly six hundred feet long, and about thirty broad, divided into four equal parts. There are few such bazaars in the East, and one wonders at the silks, cloths, and goods arrayed under its piazzas; and the quantity of dried fruits, grapes, pears, apples, quinces and melons. In the poulterers' shops are snipes, ducks, partridges, plover, and other game. Each trade has its separate bazaar: there are booksellers and stationers; much of the paper is Russian, and of a blue colour. A white jelly strained from snow called "Falodeh," and blanched rhubarb called "Rhuwash," are great favourites with the people. Few cook at home, and Cabool is famous for its kabobs or cooked meats. There are no wheeled carriages in the town; the streets are not very narrow, and are intersected with small covered aqueducts of clean water; they are kept in good order. The houses are built of sun-dried bricks and wood, few of them more than two stories high; the population is 60,000 souls. The Cabool river runs through the city, and is reported to have inundated it three different times. During rain there is not a dirtier place than Cabool. According to the natives, the city is 6000 years old; it was once, with Ghizni, tributary to Bameean, but is now the capital over both; it is said to have been once named Zabool, hence the name of Zaboolistan. It is a popular belief that when the devil was cast out of heaven, he fell in Cabool. There are not exactly traditions of Alexander here; but both Herat and Lahore are said to have been founded by slaves of that conqueror, called Heri (the old name of Herat), and Lahore. No coins were procured except a Cufic coin of Bokhara, 843 years old, and Lieutenant Burnes heard of one at the mint of the size and shape of a sparrow's egg; triangular and square coins are common; the latter belonging to the age of Akbar. A colony of Armenians, consisting of some hundreds, were introduced into Cabool by Nadir and Ahmed Shah from Joolfa and Meshid in Persia, of whom only twenty-one persons are now remaining; and there are but three Jewish families out of one hundred which it could boast last year.

Since their departure, our travellers had so far kept pace with the seasons in the various climates, as to be travelling in a per-

petual spring. Cabool is 6000 feet above the sea, and its gardens, which are all beautiful, were now in full blossom, and afforded a great variety of fruits and flowers. The people are passionately fond of sauntering about them. The climate of Cabool is genial. At noon the sun is hotter than in England, but the evenings and nights are cool; there is no regular rainy season. The snow lasts for five months in the winter, and the prevailing winds are from the north. Cabool is celebrated for its fruits, and they make a wine not unlike Madeira. The Bala Hissar, or citadel, is situated at the eastern extremity of the rocky hills which enclose the city to the south and west; it commands the city, but is not strong. It was built by different princes of the house of Timour from Baber downwards; the palace stands in it. Near it the Persians or Kuzzilbashs reside; they are Toorks, principally of the tribe of Juwansheer, who were fixed in this country by Nadir Shah. During their stay, our travellers witnessed the festival of "Eed," kept in commemoration of Abraham's intention to sacrifice his son Isaac, with every demonstration of respect. The tomb of Timour Shah, which stands outside the town, is a brick building of an octangular shape, fifty feet high, about forty feet square inside, and of an architecture resembling that of Delhi. The tomb of Baber also stands in the centre of a garden about a mile from the city; the grave is marked by two erect slabs of white marble, in front of which is a small but chaste mosque of marble also: near it are interred many of his wives and children.

The Afghans call themselves "Beni Israeel," children of Israel, yet consider the term "Yahooder," Jew, to be one of reproach. They say they were transplanted by Nebuchadnezzar after the overthrow of the Temple, to Ghore, a town near Bameean, and that they lived as Jews till the first century, when Khaleed converted them to Mohammedanism; they have all the appearance of Jews, and have the Hebrew custom of the younger brother marrying the widow of the elder. From all he could learn, Lieutenant Burnes is of opinion that they are of Jewish descent; but in this there is probably a mistake.

Having spent nearly three weeks at Cabool, preparations were made for departure; but as no caravan was ready, they hired a Cafilabashee, or conductor of the great caravan. A steward of one of the principal noblemen, who carried on great commercial intercourse with Bokhara and Russia, was appointed to accompany them; and they were furnished with letters from the chief and various other individuals from whom they had experienced great kindness. During their stay, the party had become acquainted with some of the Hindoo or Shikarporee merchants, in whose hands is all the trade of Central Asia, and who have houses

of agency from Astracan and Meshed to Calcutta; and through them it became an easy matter to adjust their money-transactions, giving gold and a bill on Bokhara on the letter of credit with which Lieutenant Burnes was furnished by the Indian Government.

Thus prepared, they left Cabool on the 18th of May (Friday), after noontide prayers, according to the usual custom, and halted at night at a small village called Killa-i-Kâzee. Prudence dictated their proceeding very quietly in this part of their journey; they assumed the title of "Meerza," or secretary, a common appellation in these countries, and committed themselves to the charge of the conductor, like a bale of goods. They left the road which leads to Caudahar, and followed the valley of the Cabool river, to its source at Sirchushma; the first halting-place was called Julraiz from its running brooks, and these it is that make the country enchanting, in spite of its bleak rocks. The valley was not above a mile in breadth, and most industriously cultivated; the hills on each side were covered with snow. At Sirchushma are two natural pools converted into fish-preserves, and said to be sacred to Ali, therefore they are never molested. Before entering the valley of the river, they left the famous Ghizni to the south; it is only sixty miles from Cabool. It is now a place of small note, but contains the tomb of Mahmood its founder, which has sandal-wood gates, originally from Somnat in India.

They wound up the valley till they reached a level tract on the mountains, the pass of Oonna, the ascent to which is guarded by three forts; they encountered the snow previous to reaching the summit, which is about 11,000 feet high, and crossing the pass, halted at a small village in the cold country of the Huzaras, who were only now ploughing and sowing. Continuing along the base of Kohi Baba, a remarkable ridge with three peaks on it rising to the height of about 18,000 feet, covered with snow, they reached, on the evening of the 21st, the bottom of the pass of Hajeeguk, and passed the night with a Huzara family near a little fort. These people said that the snow prevented them from stirring out for six months in the year, and that the barley sown in June was reaped in September. Money was of no value, every thing was purchased by barter. The Huzaras differ from the Afghan tribes, more resembling in physiognomy the Chinese; they are a simple-hearted people, of Tartar descent. Though living some of them at 10,000 feet elevation, they are quite free from goitre. From this resting-place the party commenced the ascent of the pass of Hajeeguk, about 12,400 feet above the sea; it was the 22nd of May, but the snow bore their horses, and the thermometer fell to four degrees below the freezing point. Beyond this they endeavoured to ascend to the pass of Kaloo, still 1000 feet higher, but



their progress was arrested by the snow, and they doubled it by passing round its shoulder, taking the side of a valley, watered by a tributary to the Oxus, which led to Bameean. The mountain-scenery with its frightful precipices was truly grand, and it was impossible to continue their route on horseback: the path appeared formerly to have been fortified, and they passed remnants of post-houses of the Mogul empire.

Bameean is celebrated for its colossal idols, and innumerable excavations, which are to be seen in all parts of the valley for about eight miles, and still form the residence of the greater part of the population; a detached hill in the middle of the valley is quite honey-combed with them, and brings to recollection the Troglodites of Alexander's historians. It is called the city of Ghoolghoola, and the caves are said to be the work of a king named Julal: they are dug on both sides, but the greater number lie on the northern side, where also are carved in relievo, on the face of the hills, two colossal idols. They consist of two figures, male and female, the one named Silsal, the other Shahmama, about two hundred yards apart. The male, which is the larger of the two, is about 120 feet high, occupying a front of nearly 70 feet, and extends about the same distance into the hill. The figure is covered with a mantle which hangs all over it, and has been formed of a kind of plaster; the niches have also been at one time plastered and ornamented with painting of human figures; the execution is indifferent, but the colours are still vivid. Near the bottom are apertures through which a road winds up the inside of the hill to the top of the figures. Rings, coins, &c., are found by digging; the latter generally bear Cufic inscriptions, and are of a later date than Mahommed. Bameean is subject to Cabool, and appears to be a place of high antiquity, perhaps the city which Alexander founded at the base of Paropamisus, before entering Bactria. The country from Cabool to Balkh is still called "Bakhtur Zumeen," or Bakhtur country. The caves and idols are described in the history of Timourlane.

After a day's delay at Bameean the party set out for Syghan, distant 30 miles; half-way they crossed the pass of Akrobat, where they left the dominions of modern Cabool and entered Toorkistan, called Tartary by Europeans. They now looked upon the range of great snowy mountains behind them; Kohi Baba is the principal continuation of the Hindoo Koosh. From Syghan they crossed the pass of Dundan Shikun, or the Toothbreaker, so called from its steepness and difficulty; and then descended into a narrow valley, that extended some miles beyond the village of Kamurd. The rocks rose on either side to the height of 3000 feet, frequently precipitous, nor was the dell anywhere more than 300 feet wide; no stars could be seen, nor any observations taken.

On the 26th of May they crossed the last pass of the Indian Caucasus—the Kara Koottul, or Black Pass—but had yet a journey of ninety-five miles before clearing the mountains. At the village of Dooab they descended into the bed of the river of Khooven, and followed it to that place, among terrific precipices, where they met with a band of robbers, Tartar Huzaras, who however did not attack them. They continued their descent, by Khoorrum and Sarbagh, to Heibuk, which is but a march within the mountains; near it is a defile, called Dura i Zindan, or Valley of the Dungeon, so narrow, with adjoining precipices so high, that the sun is excluded from some parts of it at mid-day. A poisonous plant is found here, which is fatal to either mule or horse. Beyond this they began gradually to exchange the barren rocks for more hospitable lands. Herds of deer might be seen bounding on the rocks, and population became more numerous. Heibuk is a thriving village, with a castle of sun-dried brick built on a commanding hillock; the elevation of the village is about 4000 feet; its soil is rich, and the gardens exhibited the most luxuriant verdure: the fig-tree is found here. The houses have domes instead of terraces, with a hole in the roof for a chimney; so that the village has the appearance of a cluster of large brown bee-hives. They adopt this style of building as wood is scarce. The people wear conical scullcaps instead of turbans, and long brown boots; the ladies choose the brightest colours for their dress, are not scrupulous about being veiled, and are not ungainly in appearance.

On the 30th of May they made their last march among the mountains, and debouched into the plains of Tartary, at Khoooloom or Tash Khoorghan, the country to the north sloping down to the Oxus. The last hills, about two miles from the town, rise at once in an abrupt and imposing manner, the road passing through a defile that might easily be defended. Khoooloom contains about 10,000 inhabitants, and is the frontier-town of the chief of Koon-dooz, Morad Beg, who has reduced all the countries north of Hindoo Koosh under his yoke. Their intention was to have proceeded on the following day to Balkh, but they were desired to await the return of a messenger, who had been despatched to the chief at Koondooz, by whom they received a summons to repair thither. Lieutenant Burnes now resolved on personating the character of an Armenian, trusting his safety to the appearance of abject poverty; and set forth with most of his party, leaving, however, Dr. Gerard and his Hindoo servants at Khoooloom. Besides the conductor, the steward, and the Hindoo customhouse-officer of Khoooloom, whom Lieutenant Burnes had persuaded to accompany them, the caravan consisted of eight or ten tea-merchants, who, having disposed of their property, were returning to Budukh-

shan and Yarkund. Starting in the evening, they halted at the village of Ungaruk, twelve miles from Khooloom, to feed their horses ; and then continued travelling till within an hour of dawn, by a dreary road, over two low passes, among hills not enlivened by a single tree, nor blessed with a drop of fresh water, for forty-five miles. About eleven in the forenoon, they reached the first fields, twelve miles from Koondooz, where they arrived at night-fall, having performed a journey of more than seventy miles. On the road, Lieutenant Burnes had an opportunity of entering into conversation with the Hindoo in his native tongue, which was not understood by the rest of the party, and discovered that this official was open to a bribe, and was willing to lend his weight to the following story, which was also made known to the conductor and steward :—that Lieutenant Burnes was an Armenian from Lucknow, a watchmaker, who, having learnt at Cabool of the existence of some relatives at Bokhara, was journeying thither ; and that Dr. Gerard was a relative of his, but left at Khooloom from ill health. All the 4th they remained at Koondooz, where Lieutenant Burnes had an opportunity of seeing something of the people, who are passionately fond of tea, and—like the Turks with their coffee—nothing is done without it ; the leaves of the pot are afterwards divided among the party, and chewed like tobacco. Most of the visitors were Tajik merchants, natives of Budukshan, trading to China, from whom were gathered some particulars regarding the reputed descendants of Alexander the Great, which are yet said to exist in this neighbourhood and the valley of the Oxus.

Early on the morning of the 5th they started for their interview with Morad Beg, whom they found at the village of Khaun-abad, about fifteen miles distant, and situated on the brow of the hills above the fens of Koondooz, and guarded by the fortified dwelling of the chief, in which were about five hundred cavalry, armed with long knives in their girdles, some of which were richly mounted with gold. The interview was critical, but on the positive assurance by the Hindoo officer, that the travellers were poor Armenians, an order was made out for their safe-conduct. From the torn and threadbare garb of Lieutenant Burnes, he was not even thought worthy of a question ; and in the afternoon returned to Koondooz. The town lies in a valley, surrounded by hills on all sides, except the north, where the Oxus flows at the distance of forty miles ; it is watered by two rivers, which join north of the town. The greater part of the valley is so marshy that the roads are constructed on piles, and run through the rankest weeds ; yet wheat and barley are produced, as also rice. The heat is intolerable, and the climate very unhealthy ; yet the snow lies for three months in the year. At one time Koondooz has been a large town, but

now its population does not exceed 1500 souls. The mountains of Hindoo Koosh lie in sight, south of the town, covered with snow; the neighbouring hills are low ridges, covered with grass and flowers, but destitute of trees. Farther up the valley, the climate becomes more genial and healthy. The chief, Morad Beg, is an Usbek of the Kudghun tribe, lately risen to power; he possesses all the valley of the Oxus, and but recently held sovereignty over Balkh. After a fatiguing march of twenty hours constantly in the saddle, Lieutenant Burnes again joined Dr. Gerard, at Khooloom, to the heartfelt joy of both; and not wishing to incur any more risks, they prepared to set out the following morning, the 8th of May, and in the afternoon reached Muzar, thirty miles distant from Khooloom. The country between these places is barren and dreary, and the road leads over a low pass, called Abdoo; on the route they observed a magnificent mirage, a snaky line of vapour as large as the Oxus itself, and which had all the appearance of that river.

Muzar contains about five hundred houses, and is within the limits of the canal of Balkh; it can muster about 1000 horse, and is independent of that city and Khooloom. Muzar means a tomb; and this place was built about three hundred and fifty years ago, and dedicated to Ali. At this town, Mr. Trebeck, the last of Moorcroft's unfortunate party, expired; he is buried outside the town. On the morning of the 9th of June they entered the ancient city of Balkh, where they remained three days, to examine the ruins of this once proud city.

The remains extend for a circuit of about twenty miles, but present no symptoms of magnificence; they consist of fallen mosques and decayed tombs, built of sun-dried bricks, none of the ruins being of an age prior to Mahommedanism. It is still called, by the Asiatics, "Mother of Cities," and is said to have been built by Kyamoor, the founder of the Persian monarchy. It continued the residence of the Archi-magus till the followers of Zoroaster were overthrown by the inroads of the Caliphs. Its inhabitants were butchered in cold blood by Jenghis Khan; and under the house of Timour it became a province of the Mogul empire. It formed the government of Aurungzebe in his youth, and was at last invaded by the great Nadir. Under the Dooranee monarchy it fell into the hands of the Afghans; and within the last eight years has been seized by the king of Bokhara. Its present population does not exceed 2000 souls, chiefly natives of Cabook; also a few Arabs. The city appears to have enclosed a number of gardens; there are the ruins of three large colleges of handsome structure. A mud wall surrounds the town, which must be of a late age, since it excludes the ruins, on every side, for about two miles. The citadel, or *ark*, on the northern side, has

been more solidly constructed, yet is a place of no strength: in it is a stone of white marble, pointed out as the throne of Kai Kaoos, or Cyrus. Balkh stands on a plain, 1800 feet above the sea, about six miles from the hills; the city itself has become a perfect mine of bricks for the surrounding country; they are of an oblong shape, rather square. The fruit of Balkh is most luscious, particularly the apricots. Snow is brought from the mountains, about twenty miles from the southward, and sold for a trifle. The climate is insalubrious, but not disagreeable; its unhealthiness is ascribed to the water, which is so mixed up with earth and clay as to look like a puddle after rain; the soil is like pipe-clay, and very rich; when wet it is slimy; the crops are good, and the wheat grows as high as in England. The water has been distributed by aqueducts from a river; these frequently overflow and leave marshes, but the country itself is not naturally marshy, as it slopes gently towards the Oxus. Lieutenant Burnes obtained some copper coins, Persian, Cufic, and Arabic; and examined a whole series of those of the emperors of Hindostan. The tombs of Moorcroft and Guthrie are outside the town.

On the 12th of June, the caravan assembled outside the town, and at midnight our travellers left Balkh, on camels, bearing panniers, which held one person on each side, when a march of thirty miles brought them to the limits of the waters of Balkh. Lieutenant Burnes observes, that the language of the most graphic writer could not delineate this country with greater exactness than Quintus Curtius has done. On the 14th, they entered the desert, and travelled all night towards the Oxus. They left the high road, from fear of robbers, and journeyed westward, halting at daylight near a settlement of Toorkmuns, consisting of a few round huts. The mountains of Hindoo Koosh had entirely disappeared below the horizon, and the wide plain, like an ocean of sand, surrounded them on all sides. At sunset they saddled, and after a journey of fifteen hours (thirty miles), found themselves on the banks of the Oxus, near the small village of Khoju Salu. The river was upwards of 800 yards wide, and 20 feet deep; its waters were loaded with clay, and the current ran at the rate of about three miles and a half an hour. It is called Jihoon and Amoo by the natives. They crossed it in the following singular manner: a pair of horses was yoked to each boat, no oar was used to assist them, only a rude round pole to prevent the boat wheeling in the current; they sometimes use four horses. Having passed the river, they commenced their journey towards Bokhara, and halted at Shorkudduk; they next reached Kir Kooduk, the stages being about twenty-five miles, travelling chiefly during the night, the thermometer, which stood at 103° in the day, then falling to 60°. The next march, to a place called Kirkinjuk, brought

them to a settlement of Toorkmuns, and the country changed from hillocks to mounds of bare sand. At sunset of the 20th, as they approached the town of Kurshee, they descried to the eastward a stupendous range of mountains, covered with snow; the distance was estimated at 150 miles, and their elevation far exceeded that assigned to any range north of Hindoo Koosh. They could distinguish them faintly at daylight next morning, when they came to the oâsis of Kurshee, but never saw them again. This spot was a cheering sight after having marched from the Oxus (eighty-five miles) without seeing a tree. Here Lieutenant Burnes, Dr. Gerard, and several of the party, were attacked with fever, supposed to have been caught at Balkh or on the banks of the Oxus, and which prolonged their stay at Kurshee three or four days: in the mean time, however, they sent forward a letter to the minister of Bokhara, to announce their approach, to which a message of welcome was returned.

Kurshee is a straggling town, about a mile long, with a considerable bazar, and about 10,000 inhabitants; the houses are flat-roofed, and mean. A mud fort, surrounded by a wet ditch, forms a respectable defence on the south-west side of the town. A river, rising at Shuhur Subz, fifty miles distant, passes north of the town, and its banks are adorned with gardens groaning with fruit; beyond the banks, however, everything is barren and sterile. Kurshee is the largest place in the kingdom of Bokhara, next to the capital; its oâsis is twenty-two miles broad. From Kurshee they marched to Karsan, a thriving village, sixteen miles distant, at the extremity of the oâsis. The second stage brought them to Kuroul-tuppa, where there is a caravanserai, built by Abdoola, king of Bokhara, in the fifteenth century; and they passed three large reservoirs, built by this philanthropic prince. Their next stage brought them, early on the morning of the 27th of June, to the great eastern capital of Bokhara.

Bokhara is a very ancient city, tradition assigning its foundation to Alexander the Great; and the nature of the country around makes it probable that it was occupied, more or less permanently, even before his time. The circumference of the present city exceeds eight miles, and its population is about 150,000 souls. Its shape is triangular; and it is surrounded by a wall of earth twenty feet high, and pierced by twelve gates. Few great buildings are seen from its exterior, but when the traveller passes the gates he winds his way among lofty and arched bazaars of brick, and sees each trade in its separate quarter of the city. Everywhere, also, he meets with ponderous and massy buildings, colleges, mosques, and lofty minarets. About twenty caravansaries contain the merchants of different nations; and about one hundred ponds and fountains, constructed of squared stone, supply, when themselves

supplied, the population with water; but the city is six miles from the river, and is frequently much distressed for want of good water. When the travellers were here, the canals had been dry for sixty days.

The wisdom and excellence of the government at present established at Bokhara seem to promise to make it also a place of yet growing importance. We cannot enter here into particulars on this head: but the mixture of severity and indulgence; strict Mohammedanism in his own person, with toleration for the opinions of all others; total ignorance respecting Europeans, with a sufficient perception of their superiority to give a strong desire to see them in his bazaars;—altogether constitute the Koosh Beggee, as he is called, or Lord of all the Begs, a very remarkable person. He is not sovereign of Bokhara, but prime minister to the Sool-taun, who bears the title of Commander of the Faithful, but appears to interfere little with the government. The travellers saw him, but were not presented to him; with the Koosh Beggee they had many interviews, and received much kindness from him.

The ancient and famous city of Samarkand is 120 miles from Bokhara; and the travellers were within two marches of it when at Kurshee, but it was impossible for them to visit it. It has declined to the rank of only a provincial town of eight or ten thousand inhabitants, and gardens now occupy the place of its streets and mosques: but it is still regarded with great veneration by the people. An obelisk, 150 feet high, at Bokhara, is said to be raised to the level of its site. Three of its colleges are said to be still perfect: one of them that which formed the observatory of the celebrated Ulug Beg. In Bokhara there are no fewer than 366 colleges; of which a third contain seventy or eighty students, the others are smaller; they are all well endowed, and fixed allowances are given both to the professors and students. Unfortunately, however, they are exclusively devoted to the study of theology, and are ignorant even of the historical annals of their own country.

Bokhara, among other branches of trade, has an extensive slave-market; the Uzbecks managing all their affairs by means of slaves, who are chiefly brought from Persia, as we have already noticed in this article, by the Toorkmuns: but Russians and Chinese are also to be found among them.

Our travellers remained in Bokhara about a month; but on the 21st of July they left the city, having been placed, by the Koosh Beggee, under the special care of the conductor of a caravan bound to Meshed, and bivouacked, for the first night, in a field about half a mile from the gates. Three short marches brought them to the home of the cafila-bashee or conductor of the caravan, a small village of twenty houses, called Murabad, forty

miles from Bokhara, and in the district of Karakool; where they learnt that the merchants, having taken alarm at the proceedings of the Khan of Khiva, had all declined to advance. They, however, resolved on sending a messenger to the Khan, desiring to know what levies he demanded, and what they had to expect: the document was dispatched by a Toorkmun, who promised to bring an answer on the eighth day; and the principal merchants of the caravan returned to Bokhara, while our travellers remained at Meerabad. Four or five miles from the city, they entered on a tract of country which was at once the extreme of richness and desolation; to the right the land was irrigated by the aqueducts of the Kohik, and to the left the dust and sand blew over a region of dreary solitude. After travelling twenty miles to the W. S. W., they found themselves on the banks of the river of Samarcand, which did not exceed the breadth of fifty yards, and was not fordable. It had much the appearance of a canal; and the stripe of cultivated land on each side did not exceed a mile in breadth, for the desert pressed closely on the river. The number of inhabited places was yet great, and each settlement was surrounded by a wall of sun-dried brick, as in Cabool, but the houses are neither so neat nor so strong. The direct course which they were pursuing to the Oxus led them away from the Kohik, but after crossing a belt of sand-hills, about three miles wide, they again descended on that river. Its bed was entirely dry, its scanty waters being dammed at Karakool; it does not flow into the Oxus, but forms rather an extensive lake, called "Dengir" by the Uzbeks. In the neighbourhood of Meerabad, our travellers fell in with the ruins of Bykund, said to be one of the most ancient cities of Toorkistan: it lies about twenty miles from Bokhara, and appears to have been once watered by an extensive aqueduct, the remains of which may still be traced. It is now quite deserted, but the walls of some of its buildings remain.

At midnight of the 10th of August, the messenger returned from the Orgunje camp, and brought the necessary passport on a dirty scrap of paper, with which he was obliged to proceed to Bokhara, to the merchants who had returned thither. The caravan soon re-assembled, and on the morning of the 16th of August, about eighty camels appeared, to prosecute the journey to the Oxus, all laden with the precious lambs' skins of Karakool. At mid-day they commenced their march towards that river, which was twenty-seven miles distant.

After journeying ten miles, they halted in the evening at a small village, and set out again at midnight for the river. Their route led them among vast fields of soft sand, formed into ridges like those on the verge of the ocean: the belt of sand hills between Bokhara and the Oxus varies in breadth from twelve to fifteen



miles. They are utterly destitute of vegetation, and preserve a remarkable uniformity, all being of the shape of a horse-shoe, the outer rim to the northward, from which quarter the winds of this country blow. On this side the mounds sloped, while the inner edge was precipitous; none of these hills exceeded fifteen or twenty feet in height, and all rested on a hard base. The thermometer rose in the day to 100°, and fell to 70° at night. About four miles from the Oxus they came to verdant fields irrigated by that river. The point where they had come down upon the Oxus was at Betik, opposite Charjooee, one of the greatest ferries between Persia and Toorkistan; the boats and baggage were therefore soon transported to the opposite bank. From the farmer of the ferry Lieutenant Burnes learnt that the river had been frozen over the year preceding, which is a very unfrequent occurrence. The stream of the Oxus was here 650 yards broad, and in some places twenty-five to twenty-nine feet deep; its banks are much depressed and overgrown with a rank weed which chokes the aqueducts. Some fish of an enormous size, weighing from 500 to 600 pounds, of the dog-fish kind, are produced in this river, and used as food by the Uzbeks. This fine river was now for the first time turned to the purposes of navigation, since there is a commercial communication kept up by means of it between Charjooee and Orgunje. Charjooee stands six miles from the banks of the Oxus: it is pleasantly situated on the verge of culture and desolation, with a pretty fort on a hillock overlooking the town, and is said to have resisted the arms of Timour. The population does not exceed 5000 souls, but the greater part of them wander up and down the Oxus during the hot months. In the bazaar were knives, saddles and bridles, cloth and horsecloths of native manufacture, but the only articles of European fabric were a few beads and chintz skull-caps. Most of the people in the bazaar were Toorkmuns of the Oxus, and the different articles were arranged in separate parts of the bazaar. Every one having supplied their wants at this last inhabited spot of civilization between Bokhara and Persia, and every vessel being filled up with water, the caravan commenced its march at noon of the 22nd; it consisted of about 150 persons, with 80 camels. Some travelled in panniers placed on camels, some on horses, and some on donkeys, but even the meanest had some kind of conveyance. The mode of travelling is to start at mid-day and march till sunset, and after a couple of hours' rest to resume the task and continue till daylight, when they usually reach the next stage. Their first stage was to a well of brackish water called Karool, twenty-two miles from Charjooee: the whole tract was a dreary waste of sand-hills, but not entirely destitute of vegetation, as there were some shrubs on which the camels browsed. On

their march they met a party of Toorkmuns returning with seven Persian captives taken near Meshed.

From Karoul they quitted the high road of the caravans, which leads to Merve, and proceeded westward into the desert, as the officer commanding the Orgunje army had sent a messenger to direct their march upon his camp. On the following morning they reached the well of Balghooee, twenty-four miles distant, where, having emptied it, they had to wait till night, that it might fill again. In this march the desert was overgrown with brushwood, but entirely destitute of water; a few rats, lizards, and beetles, with occasionally a bird, were its only inhabitants. Some of the sand-hills now attained the height of sixty feet, but at that elevation they are invariably bare of all vegetation. There was nothing peculiar in the colour of the sand, which was quartzose. The heat of the sand rose to  $150^{\circ}$ , and that of the atmosphere to  $100^{\circ}$ . After a day's detention to rest the camels, they marched at sunrise, and continued with only a short halt till the same time next day, making a stage of thirty-five miles to a fetid well called Seerab. The desert now presented an undulating and uneven country of sand partially covered with shrubs, and the soil was salt in some places. Their next march brought them at midnight to Oochghooee, or the Three Wells, where they met some wandering Toorkmuns, the first since leaving the Oxus. The country continued to change as they advanced, becoming more flat and free from sand. Next day, at noon, they again set out, and by sunset found themselves among the ruins of forts and villages now deserted,—the ancient remnants of the civilization of the famous kingdom of Merve; and after a cool and pleasant march over a flat and hard plain, they found themselves about nine on the following morning at a large Toorkmun camp, near the banks of the Moorghab, at a place called Khivajer Abdoolla. They here learnt that the Orgunje camp lay on the other side of the river, which was not fordable but at certain places; and the merchants decided that they themselves, with the conductors of the caravan, should proceed in person to conciliate the officer in charge, while our travellers were left with the slaves and drivers, praying most heartily for their success.

Speaking of the desert in a military point of view, Lieutenant Burnes thinks it almost impracticable for an army of modern times to cross it, from the very scanty supply of water to be obtained, and the scarcity of grass for the cattle; but it might be traversed by light cavalry capable of moving with rapidity, and taking different routes, there being one both to the east and west of the high road to Merve. The Toorkmun camp where they halted consisted of about 150 conical moveable huts, which

were perched on a rising ground ; countless flocks were at pasture around it, tended by only one or two individuals aided by dogs of the mastiff breed. The party who had proceeded to the Orgunje camp returned next morning with an officer commissioned to collect the tax, which he declared to be one in forty. The merchants treated him with marked attention, and began to give an account of their wares, which fear of discovery caused to be a very exact one. The scene is described as very amusing. Being now at liberty to proceed, they moved at dawn of the 29th of August, and followed the course of the Moorghab for twelve miles before they could cross it. Its breadth was about eighty yards, and five feet deep, running within clayey banks at the rate of five miles an hour ; they crossed by an indifferent ford, over a clay bottom, at a place called Uleesha, but there is no village. This river rises in the mountains of Huzara, and loses itself in a lake about fifty miles N.W. of Merve ; it is the Epardus of Arrian. The country is covered with the tenements of the Toorkmuns, who cultivate by irrigation, and everything grows in rich luxuriance. About Merve the country is called Maroochak, and is very unhealthy. On the 30th, they retraced the greater part of the previous day's route, travelling along the opposite banks of the Moorghab about sixteen miles ; and again halted at a Toorkmun settlement called Kunjookoolan, when they commenced their march in the desert westward of that river, making a progress of thirty-seven miles. The tract was entirely different from the opposite side, and about midway the desert changed to a hard flat surface, which it afterwards preserved ; the country was destitute of water, but there were the remains of many caravansaries and cisterns built by Abdoola Khan of Bokhara. In this neighbourhood they witnessed a constant succession of whirlwinds that raised the dust to a great height, and moved over the plain like water-spouts at sea. As they halted on the morning of the 1st of September at a ruin called Kalournee, they descried the high lands of Persian Khorasan, and observed a magnificent mirage in the same direction. In approaching Shurukhs they could perceive a gradual rise in the country ; and exchanged the shrubs of the desert for the tamarisk and the camel's thorn. They reached Shurukhs at sunrise of the 2nd, having performed a journey of seventy miles in forty-four hours, including every halt, or thirty-two hours' actual marching. This is a Toorkmun settlement, consisting of a small weak fort, situated on a hillock, under cover of which most of the inhabitants have pitched their dwellings. There are a few mud houses, which have been built by the Jews of Meshed, who trade with these people. Two thousand families of the Salore tribe, the noblest of the race, are here domiciled ; and as many horses, of the finest breed, may be raised in case of need : they pay a

doubtful allegiance to Orgunje and Persia. The country around is well watered by aqueducts from the rivulet of Tejend : the soil is exceedingly rich, and possesses great aptness for agriculture. The crops of wheat, juwaree, and melons, are most abundant ; but not a tree or bush enlivens the landscape. At this place, our travellers experienced great alarm at the prospect of detention ; but through the influence of the principal merchants of the caravan, this difficulty was overcome by bribing the Toorkmun chief with their stock of tea and about twenty-six shillings in cash.

Their stay at Shurukhs, which was occasioned by the fear of a large party who were sent from the Orgunje camp on a foray to the Persian frontier, gave Lieutenant Burnes an opportunity of seeing much of the manners, &c. of the Toorkmuns. Their tents are about twenty-five feet in diameter, the sides of lattice-work, and the roof formed of laths, branching from a circular hoop about three feet in diameter, through which the light is admitted. The floor was spread with felts and carpets of the richest manufacture, looking like velvet ; fringed carpets were also hung up round the tent, on one side of which was a press, in which the females of the family kept their clothes, and above it were piled the quilts on which they slept ; yet the whole tent can be transported on one camel, and its furniture on another. They have no mosques, but say their prayers in the tent or in the desert, without ablution ; there are also but few priests among them, and those very poor, for the church has little honour among them. Their marriage customs are romantic.

On the seventh day after their arrival, the party of whom they stood in awe began to arrive, having made their foray up to the very walls of Meshed, and captured 115 human beings, 200 camels, and as many cattle, a fifth part of which was the portion of the Khan of Orgunje, by whom they had been dispatched. At length, on the 11th of September, they joyfully quitted Shurukhs at sunrise ; their caravan having been increased by the junction of two others during their stay. In the afternoon they halted at a cistern, eighteen miles from Shurukhs, the fort of which was still visible, having traversed a level country broken in some places by gravelly hillocks. At the third mile they crossed the dry and pebbly bed of the small river of Tejend, which rises in the neighbouring hills, and is lost in the sands ; its pools were saline, and much of the soil was also salt. No such great river as the Ochus nor the Herat river, of our maps, has existence. About eight at night, they again set out, and having advanced seven or eight miles, entered among defiles and hills, and found themselves, a little after sunrise, at Moozderan or Durbund, the frontier post in Persia, and forty-five miles from Shurukhs. The latter part of the route lay in a deep ravine, and they pushed forward from fear

of the Allamans, or robbers of the desert. Eleven look-out towers crown the crest of the range, and command the pass of Durbund. The caravan alighted in the fields beyond the fort of Moozderan, which stands on an isolated spur of table land, in descending the pass: it is now in ruins, having been razed by the Khan of Orgunje, some years since, who seized all the inhabitants. There is a spring of tepid water under Moozderan, which makes for itself a channel down the valley.

Leaving Moozderan, they wound up the valley of the Tejend, here a beautiful brook, and arrived, a little after noon of the following day, at Ghooskan, the first inhabited village of Persia, about fourteen miles from Meshed. It is peopled by Teimurees, a tribe of Eimaks, and has a population of 1000 souls. In the night they left Gooskan, and reached Meshed, before the sun had risen on the morning of the 14th of September. The minute and correct account of this city given by Mr. Fraser, Lieutenant Burnes observes, precludes the necessity of his entering into any detail. They received great attention and kindness from some English residents, and gladly exchanged the habits of the desert for those of civilization. By the return of a messenger who had been sent to the camp of Prince Abbas Meerza, they received an invitation to pay their respects to his royal highness, which they did after a week's stay in the holy city, and visiting the sacred shrine of the Imam Ruza. They marched up the valley of Meshed, towards Ameerabad, a distance of forty miles, and bivouacked in the fields for the night. About twelve miles from Meshed, they passed the ruins of Toose, the ancient capital of Khorasan. Sixty miles higher up the valley, on the third day from Meshed, they reached Koochan, a town which Abbas Meerza had just taken from the Koords. This place, which stands 4000 feet above the sea, is said to be the coldest spot in Khorasan: the thermometer fell to  $29^{\circ}$  at sunrise in September. The valley varied in breadth from twelve to twenty miles, and there are some verdant spots under the hills, where the best fruit is produced, otherwise the country is bare and bleak. The hills are even destitute of brushwood, and rise to the height of 2000 to 3000 feet above the valley; the roads are hard and excellent. They passed many villages by the way, now deserted on account of the war. At the camp they met with European officers in the Persian service. Koochan is a strong fortress, about a mile and a half in circumference, and surrounded by a ditch thirty-five feet deep and twenty broad, which the captors were filling up; it was garrisoned by 8000 men. In the evening they were introduced to the prince, who was very inquisitive regarding their travels, and gave them an order ensuring their protection on their route among the Toorkmun tribes to the Caspian Sea.

Here the travellers separated, Dr. Gerard having resolved to turn down upon Herat and Candahar, and thus retrace his steps to Cabool. On the 29th of September, Lieutenant Burnes joined Humza Khan, who had lately been appointed governor of the Toorkmuns east of the Caspian, and proceeded with a party of about 300 persons, composed of Koords, Persians, and Toorkmuns. They bivouacked, after a march of thirty-six miles, beyond Shirwan, a strong fortress, with a deep wet ditch, now being dismantled. They followed the course of the Atruck river, which rises near Koochan, till within ten miles of Boojnoord, rather a large place, when they left it running westward as a small rivulet, and crossed several mountain ridges. A march of thirty-eight miles brought them to Boojnoord, standing in a valley, and the residence of a Koord chief, who had prudently tendered his allegiance on the approach of Prince Abbas. Here they saw, for the first time, the wandering inhabitants, the Ilyats of Khorasan, about a thousand of whose black tents were scattered around. About four miles beyond Boojnoord they left the valley in which it is situated, and entered among hills, which, to the southward, were covered with pine trees. The climate was moist and pleasant, and there were many rich spots of cultivation among the bare hills. Though the country was mountainous, the roads were excellent, and, after a march of thirty-six miles, they reached Kila Khan, in the district of Simulghan, which is richly watered from the hills. A march of thirty-eight miles brought them to the site of the village of Shahbaz, but the inhabitants had all been transferred to Mazenderan. The tribe of Gireilee had formerly peopled this part, but human beings appear to be here considered as much property as horseflesh. They were now travelling among mountains, with alternate hill and dale, and over a wild and romantic country; there were a few stunted pines on the hills, but they were oftener bare of everything but grass. On their road they witnessed the running down of partridges, on horseback, by the Toorkmuns of their party. Six miles from Shahbaz they took leave of the hill and dale, and descended into a valley, which contained the source of the river Goorgan; and their day's journey brought them among the tenements of the Toorkmuns of the tribe of Goklan, which contain about 9000 families. The different groups of tents were pitched in the open lawn by the side of a rivulet running through the dell, and around flourished the fig, vine, pomegranate, raspberry, mulberry, black currant, and hazel. This tribe, and that of the Yamood, which lies between them and the Caspian Sea, are subject to Persia, but their allegiance is unwilling. The Yamood tribe is said to contain 20,000 families. Four days were passed at this settlement ere they again set out; at length they cleared the valley of the Goor-

gan river, and debouched upon the plain eastward of the Caspian. To the left, the hills rose to a great height, clad to the summit with forest trees and foliage ; to the right were extensive plains watered by the Atruk and Goorgan, and studded with innumerable encampments of Toorkmuns, with their flocks and herds ; and in front were descried, in the distance, the lofty mountains of Elboorz. Lieutenant Burnes having now left the suite of the Khan, and journeying alone, avoided as much as possible all intercourse with the Yamoods, who are not so pacific as the Goklans ; but passing down upon Astrabad, by the plain, after a march of eighty miles, arrived at that city. The Caspian, though upwards of twenty miles distant, could be faintly distinguished. The plague had the previous year devastated the town ; half the shops and houses were shut from want of masters, and the whole population did not exceed 4000 souls. Astrabad, called the "City of the Plague," is a place of no great note ; a dry ditch and a mud wall about two miles in circumference surround it. It is the birth place of the Kujurs, the reigning family of Persia. There are only four caravansaries, and but twelve shops for the sale of cloth ; and, notwithstanding its favourable position, its trade is trifling. The magnificent causeway of Shah Abbas, which is still in tolerable repair, keeps open the communication with the provinces south of the Caspian ; the trade with Orgunje, or Khiva, is comparatively trifling, there being but one or two annual caravans of eighty to a hundred camels, and scarcely any trade with Russia. It rains so much, that it is difficult to keep a mud wall standing, and the following ingenious plan has been devised to effect it. A mat of reeds is placed on the top of the wall, covered with earth, and planted with lilies, which grow up luxuriantly, and protect it from the rain. Though Astrabad is in the same parallel as Koochan, the thermometer, which there fell below the freezing point at sunrise last month, here stood at 60° in October. Astrabad produces the fruits of hot countries.

Lieutenant Burnes proceeded to the banks of the Caspian, at a straggling village called Nokunda, thirty miles from Astrabad, where he embarked, and sailed out to view its beautiful coasts : the vessels are all of Russian build ; they carry two masts, and hoist square sails, but there were no vessels of any great tonnage. There is a belief that the waters on the southern side of the Caspian retire, and Lieutenant Burnes observed that, within these last twelve years, they have retired about 300 yards ; he also corroborates the received opinion, that its level is below that of the sea. From Nokunda he proceeded to Ushruff, one of the favoured seats of Shah Abbas. All the fine buildings described by Hanway have been destroyed, though enough

remains to leave a favourable impression of the tastes of the Persian monarch. A mile beyond Ushruff, he found the great causeway barricaded, and a villager seated with a stick, to prevent a trespass ; he was the *board of health* at Ushruff, and Lieutenant Burnes now learnt that the plague was raging at Saree, the very town he had intended that day to halt at. Two miles from the town, this information was confirmed, and, altering his plan, he took the high road to Tehran. Saree had suffered so severely from the plague in the preceding year, that there were not now more than 300 people in it. Mazenderan is a disagreeable country, and has so moist a climate, that the inhabitants are subject to fevers, agues, dropsies, palsies, and many other diseases ; the people are sallow, and the children weak and rickety. It is a land of snakes and frogs ; but the snakes are not venomous, being of the water species. So great is the moisture, that the rice crops are mowed down near the ear, and placed to dry on the stubble, otherwise it would rot. Mazenderan is, however, a rich province. The sugar-cane thrives, but they do not appear to prepare it beyond the first stage, and sell it as molasses. Cotton also grows luxuriantly, and silkworms are reared everywhere : the fruit is good, and much of it grows wild. The peasantry have a sickly appearance ; the houses are buried in vegetation ; creepers, melons, and pumpkins are seen resting on the roofs, and every house has its garden.

At the village of Aliabad, which is twelve miles from Balfurosh, they quitted the causeway of Shah Abbas, and proceeded south to the mountains, and entered the beautiful glen which is watered by the Tilar river ; this valley extends for sixty miles, and is the greatest of the passes into Mazenderan. Shah Abbas cut a road in the rock for about ten miles, which is yet passable. They cleared the valley by the pass of Gudook, which leads up to the table-land of Persia ; the ascent was continued and gradual, and at Feerozkoh, they were again 6000 feet above the sea. The sides of the pass were very precipitous, and the road narrow : it had formerly been fortified. This is the scene of romance, and of the strains of Firdoosee, the Persian Homer. Lieutenant Burnes thinks this pass of Gudook may be identified with the Pylæ Caspiæ ; and it is a remarkable fact that, in the modern coinage of Mazenderan, that province is yet denominated *Taburistan*. The *Taburi* were attacked by Alexander in this neighbourhood. Feerozkoh stands under a naked rock or fort about 300 feet high ; it resembles Bameean, from the excavations in the hills, where the inhabitants keep their flocks also in the winter. The climate is severe, and the snow lies for five months in the year. They made three marches to Tehran, a distance of ninety miles,



halting by the way at the hovels of caravansaries, where the traveller lodges in the same room with his horse. The country was arid, bleak, and miserable, and the number of villages most limited. At noon, on the 21st of October, Lieutenant Burnes reached Tehran, the capital of the "King of Kings," and alighted at the house of the British envoy, by whom he was introduced to the Shah. His majesty, on hearing the account of his travels, was pleased to exclaim, in a tone of surprise, "Why, a *Persian* could not have done so much!"

On the 1st of November, Lieutenant Burnes quitted Tehran, and passing through Ispahan and Shiraz, visiting the tomb of Cyrus and the ruins of Persepolis, reached the coast at Bushire, whence he returned by a cruizer to Bombay, where he arrived on the 18th of January. A better summary of his travels cannot be given than in his own words. He had visited Bactria, Transoxiana, Scythia, and Parthia, Kharasm, Khorasan, and Iran; retraced the greater part of the route of the Macedonians; trodden the kingdoms of Porus and Taxiles; sailed on the Hydaspes; crossed the Indian Caucasus, and resided in the celebrated city of Balkh. He had beheld the scenes of Alexander's wars, of the rude and savage inroads of Jengis and Timour, as well as of the campaigns and revelries of Baber: in the journey to the coast he had marched on the very line of route by which Alexander had pursued Darius; whilst the voyage back to India took him on the coast of Mekran and the track of his admiral, Nearchus.

Mr. Burnes also adds to his Narrative three Supplementary Books, the nature of the information contained in which will be best indicated by inserting a table of their titles and contents.

### *I. General and Geographical Memoir on Part of Central Asia.*

Account of the Kingdom of Bokhara—The River Oxus, or Amoo; with some notice of the Sea of Aral—On the Valley of the Oxus, &c.—On the reputed Descendants of Alexander the Great—On the Sources of the Indus—Notice of Yarkund, and its intercourse with Pekin, Bokhara, and Tibet—On the Mountains of Hindoo Koosh—Toorkmania, or the country of the Toorkmuns—On the Inroads of the Tartars, with a notice of the Tribes in Toorkistan—On the Horses of Toorkistan.

### *II. Historical Sketch of the Countries between India and the Caspian Sea.*

The Punjab—Historical Sketch of Events in Afghanistan since the year 1809—Chiefship of Peshawur—Chiefship of Cabool—On the Affairs of Western Afghanistan—Summary on the Affairs of Cabool—On the Power of Koondooz—Sketch of the History of Bok-

hara—On the Political and Military Power of Bokhara—On the State of Khiva, or Orgunje—On the North-east Frontiers of Persia : the Koords and Toorkmuns.

### III. *On the Commerce of Central Asia.*

On the Commercial Relations of the Punjab, and the Advantages of Opening the Indus—On the Commerce of Cabool—On the Commerce and Foreign Communications of Bokhara and Central Asia—Notice on the Trade of Persia.

IX.—*Narrative of a Passage from Bombay to England ; describing the Author's Shipwreck in the Red Sea, and subsequent Journeys across the Nubian Desert.* By Captain W. Bourchier, R.N. London. 1834. 12mo. pp. 105.

THE author of this little volume was wrecked near the island and port of Suakin, on the western shore of the Red Sea, and returned to England *via* the Nile. He was thus led to cross its eastern desert by a route not, we believe, previously traversed by any English traveller ; namely, from Suakin, in a direction nearly west, to Berber ; and has thus added another itinerary to our previous knowledge of this district.

We shall first insert this itinerary as brought into a tabular view by Captain Bourchier himself, and then select a few of his accompanying details :—

#### *Courses and Distances from Suakin to Berber.*

Courses set by a pocket compass ; the distances estimated by time.

Dates.	Courses.	Miles.	Hours.	Remarks.
Dec. 13,	W. by S.	13	6	Filled water-skins.
14,	West.	20	7½	Water in pools, scooped by the hand.
15,	S.W. by W. ¼ W.	30	8	Well Ochock (good water).
16,	S.W. ½ W.	10	3¼	Bedouin encampment.
17,	W. by S.	23	7¼	Guide breaking camel.
18,	W. by S.	22	5½	Well Skidhee (water bad,
19,	W. by N.	25	8¼	[watered camels].
20,	W. by N. ½ N.	27	9¼	Rocks, Antelopes.
21,	W. by N. ½ N.	29	9¼	
22,	W. by N.	25	8¼	Well Al Bâk (uncertain in
23,	West.	32	9¼	Deep sand. [summer].
24,	West.	8	2¼	Reached Berber.
Total		264	84½	

The road, on first leaving Suakin, is deep sand ; but the whole of the third day's journey was laborious ascent. Afterwards, the country was diversified ; and near the well Skidhee there was an